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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

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PLP COLLEGE CONFERENCE

ADVANCE THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM

HARLEM, April 2—Some powerful images of the rally following the Progressive Labor Party's College Conference are worth sharing for readers of CHALLENGE. Picture militant chants and speeches from a multiracial, multigenerational picket line. Black workers leaving stores to come out and watch and at turns solemnly and enthusiastically raising their fists—and six of them joining the rally.

On the outskirts of the picket, CHALLENGE sellers struggling to keep up the demand for the newspaper, while engaged in excited debates about smashing Trump and communist revolution, and balancing pens to take down contact information from interested workers.

The rally energized the more than 35 members and friends of PLP, including some who travelled from the nearby states and had never sold CHALLENGE before. How was this militant advance for communist ideas possible? After a day of learning rich theory, history and discussion at the PLP College Conference!

Communist Internationalism Opens Conference

"What are we learning in school today?" This was the question posed in a tone-setting opening speech to the conference, as we dedicated our precious day off as students and professors in the bosses' universities to the international working class (see speech, page 6). Even our attendance was a glimpse at what education might be like in a communist society. In a "classroom" that was multiracial and multi-generational, immigrant and native born, we heard an opening speech that described how the bosses' attacks on students and workers span the globe and unite us. We learned that the fight between U.S. and rival imperialists like Russia and China is sapping money from education and will eagerly sap the lives from workers who will be sent to fight their wars. And we learned that even as the bosses mount their racist and sexist attacks on education, students fight back. From Haiti and South Africa to Mexico and Missouri, students are battling the onslaught of cutbacks. Most importantly, we discussed how PLP can transform these battles into revolutionary war for communism.

Workshops Combine History, Theory, Practice

After the opening speech we met in small groups to continue the discussion. We first learned a bit of history about racism in the United States. In the early to mid 1600s, plantation owners observed that Africans who had been brought over were forming deep ties with the poor whites who had come to the U.S. as indentured servants. These ties were formed on the basis of common exploitation by the plantation owners and led to instances of multiracial fightback, culminating in Bacon's Rebellion in 1676, where an integrated group of workers rose up against the government of Virginia. This scared the owners who began formulating a system of racial divisions and instituted laws specifically designed to segregate the workers. (The material for this discussion was taken from Lerone Bennet Jr.'s book, "The Shaping of Black America," specifically the chapter "The Road Not Taken.")

The second workshop made it clear that, just as colonial Virginia bosses were able to enforce their racist system, the Bolsheviks were able to bring racism and other aspects of capitalism crumbling down when they took power in the Soviet Union. We learned about the incredibly difficult task of organizing a revolution in Tsarist Russia – building friendships and trust among the workers, organizing study groups, training hundreds of thousands of leaders, etc. The fruit of this hard work was visible as we read inspiring words from Langston Hughes as he traveled through-

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OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

◗ the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet
www.plp.org
challengenewspaper.wordpress.com

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Brazil's Elections Part of China-U.S. Imperialist Rivalry

Brazil's ongoing fight to impeach President Dilma Rousseff under charges of corruption is being touted as an effort to restore "democracy" from the political and economic turmoil that the country finds itself in. But make no mistake: Brazil's current political and economic dilemma represents the inherent failure that is capitalist democracy. So why is congress really trying to impeach Rousseff? Like in capitalist democracies everywhere, Brazil's ruling classes are fighting neck-and-neck to shift the country's alliance along pro-U.S and pro-China imperialist lines. But no matter which capitalist calls the shots, Brazil's working class is always the target. Neither Dilma Rousseff's phony left party or its opposition serve working-class interests.

In fact, workers in every part of the world should be wary of the political parties and politicians that brand themselves as the savior of "democracy." Democracies can never benefit the working class because they exist entirely to full the pockets of capitalist bosses, whether the bosses be pro-U.S. or pro-China. From U.S.'s Bernie Sanders to France's Marine Le Pen, politicians have one goal in mind: to maintain the profit system of capitalism that benefits a few and exploits the masses. Their tactics are different but the goal remains the same. The Progressive Labor Party is the only party that represents the true interest of the working class. Our goal is to smash capitalism and rid the world of fail systems such as democracies, which pay lip services to the international working class. We champion a communist world where racism, nationalism, sexism, poverty and wars are no longer the seeds that workers reap.

Dilma Rousseff along with members of her left-leaning Workers Party (PT) is facing accusation of corruption that might possibly hand the reins of political power to the equally corrupt right-wing conservative parties. The accusations stem from her alleged role with the now financially strap energy company, Petrobras. Rousseff, once chair of Petrobras, is believed to have accepted bribes from the energy company to finance her presidential campaign (NYT 12/03/15).

Mass streets protests along with judicial hearings make the call for impeachment seem like a call for justice. However, the demand to impeach Rousseff is a racist call by Brazil's upper class, which is majority white, to turn economic tides in their favor. Their racist sentiment mirrors that of U.S. presidential candidate, Donald Trump and his supporters to "Make America Great Again." Above all, calls for Rousseff impeachment represent the struggle between pro U.S. and pro-China forces for control of Brazil and Latin America's rich resources.

U.S. Tries to Counter China's Pivot to Latin America

Brazil's conservative parties along with its' U.S imperialist backers are envious of China's political and economic influence under Rousseff's administration. In the subsequent years after the PT first took power championing economic and political influence for the masses of Brazil, Brazil's trade with China soared while its share with the U.S. plunged. Shunning U.S claim to the Latin America, Brazil and China continued to develop deep ties, manipulating workers' anti-U.S. imperialism into supporting a capitalist "multi-polar world" with China as its' imperialist master. China's influence remains intact to this day: in 2015, China and Brazil signed a series of investment and trade deals that totaled billions of dollars (The Guardian, 05/19/2015).

U.S. capitalist bosses' imperialist quandaries extend beyond Brazil to include Latin America as a whole. They are on because China is engulfing Latin America into its' imperialist sphere of influence. China's investment in Latin America, for example, increased more than 20-fold, from $12 billion in 2000 to $285 billion in 2014 (NYT 10/3/2015). As a result, the U.S. ruling class is reconsidering its' imperialist ambitions to focus entirely on countering China's influence in the Eastern Pacific. In a recent report titled: "Expanding the Rebalance: Confronting China in Latin America," Daniel Morgan, a senior military officer argue:

> *The growing cooperation between the governments in both regions and China presents political, economic, and military challenges that call for the incorporation of the Western Hemisphere into an Asian-Pacific Strategy… without a trans-Pacific strategy a U.S. regional approach will only create strategic risks and enable China to draw on its influence in the Western Hemisphere to support its interest elsewhere.*

It is no wonder that U.S. capitalist bosses and their lackeys in Brazil are up in arms to out China and its' servant, Rousseff.

Brazil: Infested with Racism, Sexism

Rousseff and her allies do not have the answers to stop U.S. imperialism, so workers should not heed their screams of injustice. While advocating economic reforms for the Brazil's working class, the PT has partnered with big businesses. For instance, it has wasted tremendous money and resources to hold the money laundering 2018 World Cup, while many workers continue to live in abject poverty. Black workers in particular continue to suffer under the PT's reign. Black workers, for example, represent 70 percent of those living in poverty. Like their U.S. counterparts, they are more likely to be murdered by killer cops. They are also shut out from leadership positions. A glaring example is President Rousseff's cabinet: all except one minister is white (03/23/15).

Women and indigenous workers have also felt the brunt of the PT's imperialist policies. Instead of focusing on these workers, the PT has been concentrating on Brazil's imperialist rise rather than environmental and social objectives which disproportionally affect these workers. The PT is just a phony-leftist party playing the imperialist game. Brazil's working class along with the entire working class of Latin America will be the pawns in this game for world domination.

March on May Day!

Like the political parties in Brazil, political parties and their puppet politicians in the U.S. and elsewhere are ploys to channel workers' anger into support for different capitalist bosses. Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Dilma Rousseff and others want to maintain the chaos that is capitalism. Voting for politicians thus remains futile because no real change can come from a system that is not meant for us.

That is why the Progressive Labor Party say: Don't Vote, Organize! A communist system built for and by the international working class is the only system that will truly represent our interest. Join PLP has we marched on April 27th to demand a better world for workers: a communist world. On this day, May Day, we affirm our connections with workers around the world in the struggle for a communist world free of sexism, racism and imperialist war. Join PLP in making this world a reality.✪

We Have the KKKillers' Names, Shut Racism Down

BROOKLYN, NY, March 21—More than two and a half years have passed since Kyam Livingston was killed in Brooklyn Central Booking. The police killed Kyam, in a filthy holding cell, by ignoring her pleas for medical care. She had been arrested on a minor charge and never even came before a judge. Each month members of the Progressive Labor Party, along with relatives, friends, neighbors, members of churches and unions, and the Justice for Kyam Committee rally for justice for this racist, sexist police murder.

In the beginning of these monthly rallies, we used to chant, "We want the names! We want the tapes!" In the course of the struggle, the tapes that "didn't exist" were found and showed the final heart wrenching hours of Kyam's life as she pleaded with her jailers. Recently, through the court case, we obtained the names of the cops who were Kyam's jailers in the central booking jail, and the names of all the cops who arrested her and transported her until she was in that cell.

Today, Kyam's mom read the KKKop's names to the crowd.

From Brooklyn Central Booking, they are: Shanika Howard, Charles Arthur, Alberta Dennison, Vanessa DeDanzine, Sergeant Linda Deena-Hornick, and Lieutenant Kareema Nevels.

From the 70th Precinct, they are: Michael Defede, Sergeant Matthew Fried, and Lieutenant Kurvin Manwaring.

From the 62nd Precinct: Hiram Riffas.

Kyam's mother then said that she wanted to see their faces, and ask them why they let her daughter die.

An earlier speaker had spoken about the many other Black and Latin men and women who have been murdered by the police from NYC to Cleveland to Chicago, from South Carolina to Texas to California. We chanted, "white cop, black cop all the same racist terror is the name of their game!" Here in Flatbush, the racist killers of Kimani Gray, Shantel Davis as well as that of Kyam have gone unpunished. Now, Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson, whose office won a conviction of ex-cop Peter Liang in the killing Akai Gurley, is recommending no jail time for Liang. Once again, the racist capitalist system—the courts, DAs, Mayors, Governors, and Presidents—protect and encourage killer kkkops.

After the officers' names were read, the frustration built in the crowd and in Kyam's family. A new chant arose, "If we don't get it? Shut it down! For Kyam! Shut it down! Shut this racist system down!" With that, the multiracial crowd marched into the intersection and blocked traffic. Kyam's mom led the crowd in the release of balloons of remembrance for the loss of this daughter of the working class. The bosses' system may protect killer cops, but this working class neighborhood strongly supports our monthly demonstrations. Over 200 copies of CHALLENGE were distributed at the rally, and nods of agreement were evident from the various corners as we stopped traffic.

After the demonstration, several of the leaders and family friends got together to plan future events including PLP's May Day March. Each month we call for justice, but must ask, is there justice for the working class under capitalism? Black workers, especially Black women workers, are hit the hardest under the profit system—and face constant demonization by the bosses' press.

When the bosses' kkkops murder one of our youth, the bosses' media drag their name through the mud. 16 year-old Kimani Gray was murdered by the NYPD in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, on March 10, 2013. The bosses' top newspaper, The New York Times, immediately ran an article entitled "Police Kill 16 Year-Old They Say Pointed a Handgun." Not one eyewitness supported the police's claim, despite the police claiming to have recovered Kimani's gun.

More than three years later, the bosses' media admitted that the NYPD had not found Kimani's fingerprints on his alleged weapon. As witnesses submit testimony against the police during the wrongful-death lawsuit by Kimani's mother, the evidence that the police framed Kimani continues to build.

These are just some of the examples of why workers must challenge whenever the bosses' media slanders our youth, especially when the bosses' kkkops are involved. How many more years will do we wait to for the bosses to admit they were wrong about so many other murders? The bosses' justice system will never do justice for the working class. Joining in PLP's fight for communist revolution is the best way to get justice for Kyam, and all of capitalism's victims.✪

Courts Rule KKKops Guilty, Justice for Tyrone Needed

BALTIMORE, March 30— Our weekly West Wednesday rally was really powerful this evening! PL members and other antiracist fighters are calling for Tyrone West's killers and the racist capitalist system they defend to be indicted.

Just yesterday, two of Tyrone's murderers along with about a dozen other cops were found guilty of brutally beating Abdul Salaam in July 2013, just a couple weeks before they murdered Tyrone. This is the nature of capitalism: killer kkkops who beat a member of the working class are set free to murder another worker.

No Justice Under Capitalism

Yes, the verdict against killer kkkops Chapman and Ruiz was a good thing. But, let's not get it twisted—the capitalist court system will never put an end to the horrible abuses of the racist criminal injustice system! If kkkops are even convicted, they are often let go with few consequences.

Take Peter Liang, the killer of Akai Gurley, a Black youth in Brooklyn. Liang was convicted of manslaughter but was never sent to prison because he was "not a threat"—mercy that the working class never gets. The only way to get real justice and ensure the working class' safety is to replace this violent capitalist system with communism.

Bosses Dazzle to Distract

At tonight's rally, Abdul Salaam spoke and strongly encouraged everyone to keep up the fight. The rally was held at the Inner Harbor, where the Light City festival was going on. This display is an effort by the local ruling class to try to keep us satisfied, though oppressed, with little more than just the bare basics. They try to dazzle us with spectacular events so that we forget that we live in a city where 65 percent of the jobs are unskilled and very low wage, and where poverty is high.

Nevertheless, some wonderful activist artists managed to get into the festival, and they did a beautiful light projection, largely about the anti-racist struggle against police brutality. It was right there, invited by those artists, that we held a powerful and inspiring West Wednesday rally!

Every Wednesday, we rally to fight for Tyrone West and to build class consciousness. PL'ers are entrenched in this battle and we consistently give out CHALLENGE to others in the fight. We are hoping that these fighters will come to May Day. We stress that to create a world without police brutality, we need much more struggle, the defeat of capitalism, and a whole new way of life! We can do it! Dare to struggle! Dare to win! March on May Day on Saturday, April 30.✪

Conference: Training New Communist Leaders

continued from front page

out the Soviet Union. We learn about Langston Hughes in the bosses' schools, but we never learn he was a strong supporter of the Soviet Union.

Conference Rallies Against Racist Gentrification

Unlike the bosses' schools, where we learn to accept the world basically as it is, today we learned that when the working class overcomes the racist, nationalist and sexist divisions that the bosses jam down our throats, revolutionary change is possible. The primary lesson we get from the bosses day-to-day is to be passive and try to do the best we can for ourselves or our families. The militant rally in Harlem was the antidote for passivity. Here and across New York City, developers have seen fit to close a relatively affordable grocery store where the poor residents were able to shop and are opening a much more expensive grocery store, which is completely unaffordable for most workers in Harlem. This racist attack was one of the many highlighted in chants and speeches by the group.

Dare To Learn, Fight

So what did we learn today? We learned that, as the opening speech made clear, the bosses' racism, sexism, nationalism and oppression have an expiration date. We learned that workers can unite across these boundaries that the bosses invented to keep us separate. To get there, every one of the conference participants battled their own individualism and desire to enjoy their day off. Every one of the participants fought to learn, so they can return to their campuses, organize and learn how to fight like communists in the class struggle.

The conference raised the bar for every one present and intensifies our struggle for May Day. Our most intense discussions were over how to put the struggle for revolution primary in our lives, while being immersed with our fellow students and campus workers in our struggles and mass organizations. Organizing for May Day on April 30, and winning our friends and coworkers to recognize it as our international class' holiday is part of that struggle. Winning our friends and coworkers means organizing and coordinating campus actions in advance of May Day.

Above all, the conference—run primarily by new, young comrades, eager to provide leadership to the working class—taught us that all learning isn't done in the classroom, but from class struggle among the working class. Our growing fighters for communist revolution will open the door to a whole new way of learning and doing. Dare to struggle, dare to win!✪

> As I got out of the train station, I noticed a communist banner and heard "Who are we? PLP!" Hey, those are my comrades, I think to myself as I walk over to them. Turns out the college students and professors were rallying for communism as part of their conference. So I joined the rally! We were in front of a bus station. The people in the bus were greeted with the banner that called to smash capitalism.
>
> The rally continued for a while longer but I had to head home. I took the same bus line and distributed CHALLENGE to the people who looked curiously outside their windows. One young college student talked to me about the need for an organized violent revolution. At first, he disagreed. So, I asked him to give me one example where change societal was achieved for the benefit of the working class without organized violence. He couldn't give me one reason. He was so enthralled with the conversation, he missed his stop.
>
> Another woman overheard the conversation and wanted to find out about our next rally! She respected the fact that we are not just in NYC—that we also confronted the Ku Klux Klan in Anaheim, California. I got two contacts in the process!

Shut Down TPP, Fighting Racism Is Key

WASHINGTON, DC, April 1— The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a globally racist attack on already super-exploited workers. Members of PLP and George Washington University public health students joined the demonstration today to lower the cost of medicines that can cure Hepatitis C, and treat HIV and cancer.

Global Day of Action Against Imperialist TPP

Twenty-five people rallied outside the headquarters of PhRMA, the trade association of the major pharmaceutical companies. Students hailed from Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM), and interns at Public Citizen and Center for Economic and Financial Research (CEFR). Protests occurred in other cities including Sydney, Johannesburg, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Delhi, Ahmedabad, New York City, Boston, and San Francisco.

President Obama's Trans-Pacific Partnership is a major trade deal between U.S. and major countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It is an essential step toward squaring off with China. Framed as a regulatory and investment treaty, it projects an anti-China trading and military bloc consisting of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam, and, prospectively, South Korea and Taiwan.

But the TPP also allows drug companies to maintain their patents for their drugs. This means there are fewer generic alternatives and higher prices. The new Hepatitis C medicine costs $84,000 to cure most people, meaning that most will suffer or die because they cannot afford it.

Gotta Name It to Fight It

These prices have a racist impact in the U.S. since Black and Latin workers have disproportionate levels of poverty and lack access to medical care. Some of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that organized the rally hesitated to include anti-racist statements in the press release, claiming it would "alienate people."

There is no principled struggle without naming the tool with which the bosses maims the working class—the tool of racism. The NGOs effectively exposed themselves to be servants of capitalists, as they undermine and manage working-class outrage, politics, and organizing. The role of NGOs and the watering down of politics are important issues to confront as communists work within different mass groups.

As the TPP restricts access to medication to mainly Black, Latin and immigrant workers in the United States, it also severely cuts access to medicines for millions of people in countries (e.g., Yemen, Haiti, Eritrea) where exploitation and oppression of workers are in their more naked forms. The TPP—from Sudan to Bangladesh—not only exacerbate the racist attack on the working class in the form of medical access but also will be using NGOs are their tool of imperialism. Making the struggle against TPP international in scope is essential.

Need Mass Organizing, Not Media Hype

The rally featured a puppet of Uncle Sam (the patriotic personification of the U.S. government) dressed in red, white and blue tied with ropes to the drug companies to demonstrate the power these companies have over politicians and the government. Public tax dollars support much of the drug research and development work but drug companies scarf up the profits. These companies fund all sides of the political spectrum and thus exert enormous pressure on politicians to keep prices high and unregulated, and workers desperate.

PLP members invited the crowd to march on May Day and called to eradicate capitalism, not just these trade agreements. One poster showed the worldwide distribution of people with Hepatitis C and said "Workers of the World Unite." Most people responded with interest, including a group of middle school students.

Unfortunately, the demonstration played more to the press than the public. There were no fliers to distribute in advance or on the street to explain the issues. The organizing misleaders believed the media could influence policy, rather than build a mass working-class movement. These "community organizations" and the like support capitalism by disabling or neutralizing working-class struggle. A Counterpunch essay explains, "Channeling the fight against the worst effects of capitalism through NGOs hides the central contradiction of capitalism, namely that between capital and labor. The horrific effects of capitalism—oppression, ecocide, wars of conquest, exploitation, poverty—cannot be eliminated without eliminating their cause" (10/20/15). Don't count of capitalist-funded organizations to topple capitalism. Only a united working class of women and men with an organized party like PLP can do that.

PL'ers in this rally are hopeful that some of these fighters will learn from communists and the working class that the solution must be a revolutionary movement to abolish capitalism, the breeder of illnesses and oppression. Under communism, competition, profit, and even the concept of "payment" will cease to exist. Our health will be in the hands of the people who research, make, distribute, and use the medications—the working class. The socials and environmental conditions will be controlled by those who live in it—the working class. Every aspect of society will run by and for the working class.✪

Communists' Pivot to Workers in China

CHINA, April 6—Friends of Progressive Labor Party recently had a study group with industrial workers here. We discussed the editorial "Mapping Imperialist War" from CHALLENGE (March 9) and the article about fighting fascism in India.

We especially appreciated two of the main points in the articles. First, it is absolutely correct to consider the conflict between China and U.S. as imperialist rivalry. As we are hit with one global capitalist crisis after crisis, the world is headed towards war. The deceptive propaganda in China makes concerted effort to conceal the deterioration of the world economy. Economic gimmicks like the negative interest rate cannot solve the basic economic problems. The increasing military expenditure around world boosts the danger of military conflict worldwide.

Second, China military, known as the People's Liberation Army is no longer the workers' force. The PLA was originally known as the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, or simply the Red Army. The composition of this army—the world's largest—is still workers. The change of pro-workers to capitalist regime in China has made PLA the bosses' army. It is essential to teach soldiers the class war, as they have a critical role in the future imperialist wars.

Obey No Borders

Our study group members also had some doubts about the strategy of PLP. We believe it is rather difficult to get an international alliance of workers nowadays. We agree that workers have no side in the imperialist wars. But the main task for the workers in the wars is to resist their bosses in their country and weaken their forces. This supports the liberty of other countries. World revolution can hardly be accomplished just by the unity of workers all over the world. The major revolutionary work for workers is within their countries. It is hard to unite workers of different countries within an international organization, because the international organization rarely has the ability and the influence in every country to lead the worldwide revolution.

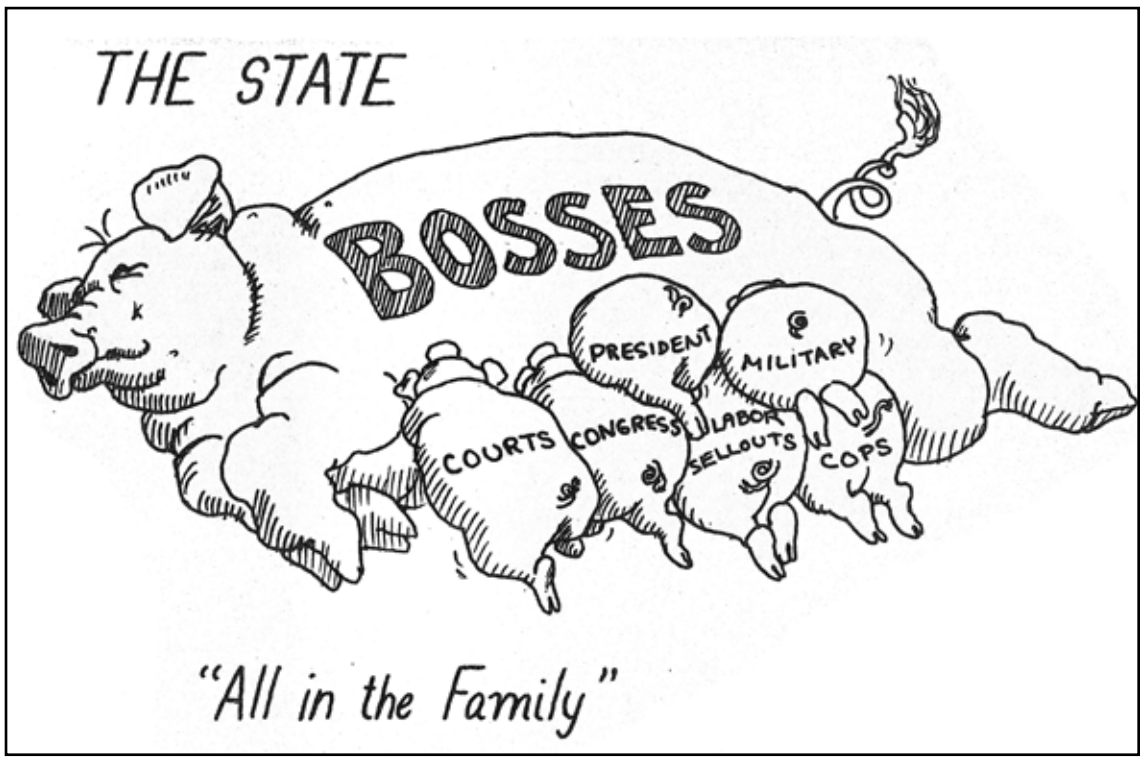
PLP agrees that it is hard to build an international party and inevitably the effort will result in uneven development. It may even lead to contradictions between comrades working and struggling in different settings. The working class must view itself as one international force—without capitalist-created borders. The bosses don't limit themselves to exploiting "their own" workers. Why should the working class in one region limit itself to liberating only "their own"? PLP believes giving in to nationalism, which maintain separation of workers, is dangerous and a failed strategy. Nationalism is a bourgeois ideology. Compromising with nationalism was a serious error committed by revolutionaries in the 20th century and should not be repeated in the 21st century. We have a whole wide world to win.✪

Israel Hides Bloody Ties with Argentine Nazism

TEL-AVIV, April 4—It is now well known that the fascist junta who took over Argentina between 1976 and 1982 has committed crimes against humanity, including kidnapping and torturing working-class activists and murdering at least 30,000 in the name of US imperialism. It is also well-known that the Argentine regime of the day was viciously anti-Semitic and specifically singled out Jewish activists for torture and murder—3,000 of those murdered were Jewish, ten times greater than their proportion in the general Argentine population at that time.

But who was a staunch ally of U.S.-backed Nazi Argentina? None other than the Zionist state of Israel. There is clear evidence that many of the junta's crimes were committed using Israeli weapons, and that the Israeli regime maintained friendly relations with the fascist generals who ruled Argentina. But when Jewish Argentinians wanted to flee persecution and potential murder to Israel, the Israeli embassy turned them down as they were "too leftist" for it—proof of the myth that Zionist politicians care about Jewish workers. This is the true nature of Zionist Israel: a state that serves Israeli capitalism and U.S. imperialism, not Jewish workers. Israeli capitalists and their lackey politicians will do whatever necessary to maintain power and profits. In 1950, as Zionists were spreading anti-Arab racism and ethnically cleansing thousands of Palestinians, they were also terrorizing Iraqi Jews by spreading anti-Semitism and planting bombs in an effort to increase Jewish immigration to Israel.

Today, Israel is harboring a war criminal wanted by the Argentinian government and the Interpol for crimes against humanity: Teodoro Anibal Gauto. He is wanted for $500,000. He was a torturer and murderer at the "La Cacha," death camp in Argentina. Many of his fellow soldiers were sentenced last October to long prison sentences—15 of them for life imprisonment—for crimes committed there. But Gauto used the fact that his wife was Jewish to flee to Israel in 2003 and live under an assumed identity. Israeli authorities have known of his true identity for at least a year, but steadfastly refuse to expel him to Argentina.



In Line with Imperialist Backer

Why have Israel–Argentina relations soured in recent years? Though the Israeli bosses refuse to disclose the reason for their refusal to send him back, a red eye on the news can find clues. These diplomatic squabbles over extradition mask the truth: imperialist competition between Israel's backer, the U.S., and Argentina's ally, China. China has dramatically increased investment in and trade with Latin America in recent years (see editorial, page 2). Moreover, Argentina renewed relations with Iran in 2013, one of China's large sources of energy and a major enemy of the U.S. and Israel. These moves all threaten U.S.'s position as the main world imperial power and Israel's regional dominance.

The Argentinian community in Israel is now demanding Gauto's extradition and exposing Israel's complicity in the junta's war crimes. The state claiming to stand for the right of "all Jews" is an accomplice to anti-Semitic pogroms and neo-Nazi murder of workers.

As members of Progressive Labor Party, it is our job to show workers both in Israel and around the world that no capitalist country is true to its claim of supporting Jewish, Arab, Argentine, Chinese, Iranian, U.S., or any other kind of worker. The bottom line is maintaining profits through any means necessary. We cannot protect ourselves by just prosecuting war criminals or supporting nationalist politics. We must smash all borders and create a communist world.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Build Worker Solidaity from Brazil to U.S.

On Thursday, March 30, I attended at rally at the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, DC protesting the rise of a fascist movement in Brazil against the social democratic government. The government of President Dilma Rousseff and her predecessor, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a former labor organizer turned politician, are under sharp attack by fascists supported by the U.S. for their imperialist gains. I spoke to the group about how the U.S. ruling class has long installed and toppled governments in Latin America, usually opting for fascist regimes like that of Augusto Pinochet in Chile (1973-1990). After the rally, I hung out with several protesters and discussed the inability of social democracy to defeat fascism, and that only a disciplined communist movement could defeat fascism for good. I distributed Challenge and leaflets about May Day to the group, and hopefully some will join us on April 30 in Brooklyn, NY for May Day, the international workers' holiday.

★★★★★

McCain Praises Communist, Spreads Anti-Communism

On March 25 The New York Times carried an op-ed by Republican Senator John McCain praising Delmer Berg, a lifelong communist. Berg was last the known surviving veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, a military force composed mainly of English-speaking volunteer fighters during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). McCain's piece, titled "Salute to a Communist," gets right a handful of facts about the war: that it was a conflict between Fascist rebels (Nationalists) and left-wing Republicans (Loyalists) who were trying to defend the democratically elected Spanish government; that Hitler and Mussolini provided the Nationalists/Rebels with military aid; and that the Abraham Lincoln Brigade was part of the Soviet-organized International Brigades, which were made up of volunteer fighters—mostly communists—from around the world.

Predictably, however, McCain's op-ed is rife with anticommunist propaganda. He observes, for example, that the Spanish communists were either "cynical" or "naïve," that communism "inflicted far more misery than it ever alleviated," and that, ultimately, "the advocates of liberty, and their champion, the United States," would put an end to the clash of ideologies—communism, fascism, and self-determination—that began in Spain (a reference, it seems, to the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s). In addition, he fails to mention a number of facts about the Spanish Civil War that fly in the face of his anticommunist claims.

Yes, workers from the U.S. sacrificed life and limb to defend the Spanish Republic; yet this was possible not thanks to the U.S. government, which imposed a travel ban on Spain in the spirit of "neutrality" during the conflict. (Some neutrality.) The "freedom fighters" McCain rhapsodizes about, in other words, did not receive any official support from the "champion" of the "advocates of liberty" at a time when the governments of Portugal, Germany, and Italy were unequivocally supporting General Francisco Franco and his fascist regime with precious military gear. In fact, over a decade after the end of the Spanish Civil War, soldiers like Berg were persecuted by the U.S. government for their "premature antifascism"—that is, their involvement in the communist-led antifascist struggles of the 1930s. During the "high" Cold War, this past involvement was presumably a sign that those who opposed fascism in the 1930s were secret communist sympathizers.

But perhaps the most problematic omission in McCain's op-ed is the fact that, unlike the U.S. military, the International Brigades were fully integrated. Several Black fighters attained positions of leadership in the Brigades and were celebrated war heroes in Spain. Oliver Law, for instance, became the first Black fighter ever to lead a fully integrated military force in U.S. history by rising to the rank of Commander of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The antiracism that characterized the International Brigades and made possible the ascent of Black soldiers like Law, as well as the organization of a military front against fascism in Spain, happened under the auspices of the international communist movement. These are hardly the doings of a movement and ideology hell-bent on—as McCain would have it—"inflicting misery."

I am not implying here that McCain, a procapitalist warmonger, should have penned a different piece—despite his clear admiration for Berg. Rather, I want to suggest that learning the history of the international communist movement is necessary for us communists if we are to contest anticommunist discourses more effectively. These discourses often obscure and distort aspects of red history—that is, our history—in order to steer fighters towards cynicism and into the bosses' camp. More importantly, the struggles of the past have the power to inform and energize our present struggles. There is, for example, a clear revolutionary line connecting the sacrifices of communists like Berg and Law during the Spanish Civil War to the militancy displayed by PLP members who recently disrupted a KKK "White Lives Matter" rally in Anaheim, California (see CHALLENGE, 3/23). In short, we must know our history not only to debunk vile anticommunist claims, but also the better to organize, agitate, and fight to tear down this racist capitalist system and build a communist world.

No to Racist Colocation

BROOKLYN, April 5—Teachers, parents, and students in East Flatbush stood up and fought back against the racist agenda of the NYC Department of Education! The DOE is as usual showing who they really serve—the capitalist bosses, not the Black and Latin families in their schools. A proposed colocation of a charter school into a non-charter elementary school's building was being debated at a public hearing on March 31.

Members of the school community and Progressive Labor Party spoke passionately about the disruption to students' learning that this colocation would cause—the loss of their media room, their indoor garden, their music spaces, to name a few. The DOE doesn't care about their mostly Black and Latin students having these essential learning spaces; in fact it's because of rooms being used for these purposes that the DOE space planners dare to say the school is "under-utilized" and has plenty of rooms to give up to another school. Members of this school are ready to fight!

It was inspiring and heartening to hear many people stand up to speak out about how all parents are looking for the best for their kids, and that all children deserve a quality education, but that the DOE's decision won't provide that for any of them. A couple people called out the DOE's actions as racist. Unfortunately, several parents also yelled at the parents and teachers of the charter school for the proposed move—a sign of the divisive tactics of the DOE.

The charter school is currently in their fourth year of being colocated with the school several PL'ers work at. Four years ago, the staff and students of our school waged a battle against the DOE's decision to do that then. One PL'er spoke to the crowd about how much our students and staff absolutely need our space back, but that the solution to our problem is not to have it shoved on the backs of others. She talked about how the DOE has used these colocations and charters to divide working class parents and teachers, and has us pitted against each other pointing the blame. The working class can't allow the school bosses to turn us against each other. Instead, we must to unite fight them back. It was made clear that the DOE is part of a racist system that doesn't care about the needs of our students.

The purpose of schools under capitalism is to prepare young people to become the next generation of exploited workers and soldiers, and to maintain the extreme systemic racism that capitalism's profits depend on. As was made clear by the parents and teachers of the soon-to-be reduced school, speaking about the work they had done on their own to develop the school's special programs, it is the working class that knows best how to build and shape a school that serves our young people. It is only in the fight for communism that the working class can achieve that.

This is the message we need to bring to our co-workers, students, and the families, and to the next public hearing. Our school staff will be meeting this week to make plans for the next hearing. Join PLP and fight for a real working-class education!✪

Learning to Crush Bosses' Lies

The following is an excerpt from the Keynote speech given at the conference by a young woman leader (see article, front page).

What are we learning in school today? I see a lot of beautiful and diverse faces, and I know I'll get a million different answers. For today, let us take stock of what the bosses really want us to learn.

We're learning about the artifice of race, class, gender, religion, and national borders that divide the international working class. We're learning that we must climb this elusive social ladder to separate ourselves from the working class. We're learning that the role of the university is to accept the inevitability of war, and to remain loyal to a system that murders, deports, and exploits our working brothers and sisters abroad, and to accept the fascist conditions at home.

We're taught that the quickest way out of the hood or to stay out of trouble is to join the military, so the bosses lure us into their death traps with their ROTC [The Reserve Officers' Training Corps]. We're learning that being Black, white, gay, straight, lesbian, trans, male, female is primary over working-class unity—they got us hooked into identity politics, or shall I say the latest opiate of the masses.

We're being taught that we're criminals by the bosses who've turned our schools into juvenile corrections facilities. Last year, Khalif Browder, a student from my campus committed suicide. He was jailed for two years on Rikers Island [New York City's main prison complex] WITHOUT BEING CHARGED WITH A CRIME, just because he couldn't afford bail. He was physically beaten and psychologically tortured when he was put in solitary confinement. Ironically CUNY [public university system] invests in the prison industrial complex. For students outside these U.S. borders, our classrooms may be miles apart but the lessons remain the same.

From Haiti, Quebec, to the U.S to Europe, and South Africa, vicious cuts on education have become a worldwide pandemic.

In Quebec University, tuition has more than tripled. In South Africa the tuition hikes are a reminder that the apartheid isn't over.

Students learn that professors are underpaid and disposable. At CUNY, racist and sexist tuition hikes, budget cuts, are the order of the day. These rapacious attacks are not coincidental: they're happening against the backdrop of escalating imperialist wars.

But there is one lesson that you won't learn— that these cuts are the bosses' way of preparing for the next world war. They won't teach us the rival arch-capitalists in the U.S., Russia, the E.U, and China vie for who will hold the title of the next world super power; they spend trillions on nuclear weapons, arming "rebels", and installing brutal fascist regimes to gear up for their carnage campaigns. The working class people are their sacrificial lambs.

The bosses have you believe that their invasion of the Middle East is necessary to spread "democracy", and rescue women from the oppressive forces, but they won't teach you that their brutal tactics actually hurt women the most.

Continued on page 7

'We Must Recognize Our Struggle Is One'

continued from page 6

When it comes to the refugee crisis, our schools won't teach you the truth: that ever since capitalists started dividing up the world and drawing borders, there have been refugees.

The U.S. was founded on the creation of millions of indigenous refugees. Today, we'll remind ourselves that 750,000 Palestinians were made refugees overnight in 1948 and are still kept off their ancestral lands.

13.5 million Syrian workers are in need of humanitarian assistance as the result of a fight between U.S. and Russian imperialists, not just Bashar al-Assad. And 15 million Africans, from places like Somalia, South Sudan and the Central African Republic, have been made refugees by the centuries of imperialist fighting over resources.

We're learning there is no phonier lesson in human responsibility than the boss's claptrap about climate change. They say we must recycle, go green, or go vegan. Meanwhile, the capitalist bosses' corporations are free to ravage the planet as they please. Not surprisingly the imperialist war machine is one of the world's worst polluters.

We're being lead astray by the bosses who play us into believing that education is a right, but the global attacks on students say otherwise. But today, you'll learn that while that geographical distance, borders, languages, culture, and race may separate us, we must recognize that our struggle is one, and that we must fight back. Fortunately, today we'll learn the bosses' racist borders and the refugees that they create have an expiration date.

What are we learning about elections? I know that's a really popular subject that many of us students worry about these days.

We are taught that the presidential election is the most important decision facing U.S. workers in decades, that we have a real choice here: the fascist Trump or the socialist Bernie. Today we'll learn that choosing sides in a capitalist election is a death trap for workers. Bernie, Hillary, Donald, Ted, it doesn't matter. Whoever is president will become the commander in chief of the largest imperialist army in the world, aiming to maintain its global power, no matter how many workers and students have died for their oil wars.

The best we can do, we're told, is to work within the system to make small changes. But today we're going to hear about militant fightbacks going on worldwide!

We have been taught the university is a world of ideas, that the world will become a better place through education. But a look at history will illuminate the truth: the way the world will become a better place is through struggle, fightback, building a worker-student unity, and planting the seeds of communist revolution in everything we do. In 1970s and 80s, PLP led the movement to kick racist theoreticians off campus. During the Vietnam War, masses of college students participated in strikes, sit-ins, and mobilizations against imperialism.

1999 was the year of the longest student strike in Mexican history at the Mexican National Autonomous University. They united workers and peasants against the privatization of electricity. Student strikes against austerity, increasing tuition, and budget cuts raged over London, Quebec, Chile, and South Africa the last few years. In South Africa, the slogan "fees must fall" swept the country. From University of Missouri to Yale, campus protests against racism have made headlines.

In the spirit of fightback, let us go to school today. Not to learn lies about our working-class brothers and sisters around the world; not to be fooled into thinking that elections are the path to liberation for workers.

No. Let us go to school today to learn about the origins of racism and nationalism. We'll learn today about how our predecessors in the communist movement fought and won advances for the working class. Most importantly, today we'll learn how we can fight against racism, sexism, nationalism and individualism, and we'll learn why communism is the only force truly capable of eradicating these social diseases created by capitalism. For a new world, for communism, we must fight back.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Obama troops leaving Iraq? The Marines have landed

NYT, 3/22 — The Pentagon…established a…base in northern Iraq staffed solely by American Marines…that followed an Islamic State rocket attack…that killed one Marine and wounded several others….

…the new outpost has long-range artillery….

The outpost had been kept a secret because the Pentagon wanted to give the Marines a chance to become "fully operational" and "ready to fight"….

…the Administration…does not want to say the forces in Iraq are "in combat" because it would run counter to President Obama's assertion that he ended combat missions there in 2010.

U.S. charter schools follow racist suspension policy

NYT, 3/17 — Black students are four times as likely to be suspended from charter schools as white students…. And students with disabilities…are suspended at two to three times the rate of non-disabled students in charter schools.

These inequities are similar to those in traditional public schools, where black and disabled students are disproportionately disciplined for even minor infractions, and as early as pre-school — although on average, charter schools suspend pupils at slightly higher rates than traditional public schools….

…Data from the 2011-2012 school year, the [federal] report found that…at the high school level, close to 40 percent of charter schools suspended one in four or more of black students enrolled that year.

Prisons profit off inmates

NYT, 3/21 — …Advocates for prisoners and their families have long criticized [phone] call rates as a form of price-gouging….

…Companies…target people who have a desperate need and no other options. Capping phone rates will provide little check on a $1.2 billion industry….

…. Everything an inmate can buy — phone calls, commissary, co-pays for substandard medical care, video visitation or the new email service — is purchased through a special account created by the prison or a private company.

Merely to add funds to an account, the family or friends must pay a service fee….

These fees are an additional money grab by the phone companies and the prison commission system. There's a fee to create an account, a fee to fund an account, even a fee to get a refund….For the "Pay Now" option…the call cost is $1.80, but the transaction fee is $13.19….

JPay handles financial transactions for 70 percent of prison inmates; its fees are as high as 35 to 45 percent of the money being sent. JPay could potentially charge a fee to create a JPay account to pay the service fee to load a…phone account.

Airstrikes in Yemen killing, maiming over 6 kids a day

NYT, 3/30 — A yearlong conflict…in Yemen [reveals]…"children…paying the highest price…."

At least six children have been killed or maimed… every day for the past year, Unicef said, calling that "the tip of the iceberg" because that number represented only the cases that had been verified. The toll is almost certainly much higher….

For the past year, a Saudi-led campaign… [was] marked by intensive…airstrikes….

…Unicef reported that at least 934 children had been killed,…61 percent…in airstrikes, and…1,356 had been wounded….

…Unicef…verified 51 attacks on schools in the past year….

…Consequences of the fighting were…widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, health centers, and electricity and water supplies.

Before the conflict, about 40,000 children under 5 died from preventable diseases each year…. But…10,000 more succumbed…because of a lack of… clean water or health care…..

"These children would never have died if it were not for this war…"

KKKops proposed lynching

NYT, 4/1 — San Francisco police…sent dozens of racist and homophobic text messages in the past several months….Those texts disparaged gays, women, Mexicans and Filipinos, and proposed lynching blacks….

…Police have been…using unnecessary deadly force and brutality, focusing…on black neighborhoods, while ignoring similar infractions elsewhere….

…The officers…wee probably involved in at least several hundred criminal cases….

In January,…the Dec. 2 shooting death of a black man, Mario Woods, 26, on a city street…[saw] at least 15 shots fired at Mr. Woods by at least five officers.

'Public' libraries? Poor kids barred by enormous fees

NYT, 3/3 — In San Jose, poor find doors to library closed. Fines on top of unpaid fines keep many from being able to borrow materials….

When Damaris Triana, then 8, lost several "Little Critter" books…she had borrowed for her sister, the library fined…her $101 — including $40 for processing fees….

In San Jose, when the late fee hits $50, the library refers the debt to a collection agency….

…Libraries began charging 50 cents a day for an overdue book, and "an exorbitant processing fee" of $20 for lost materials….

In impoverished neighborhoods,…nearly a third of cardholders are barred from borrowing or using library computers….

…Given the choice between paying fines "and putting food on the table and a roof over the children's head, it's a no-brainer; It is better not to check out library books."

Can't pay $100 bail, homeless found dead in jail

NYT, 4/3 — Jeffery Pendleton…was homeless and…found dead in a jail cell in Manchester, N.H. where he was being held for a misdemeanor because he could not pay the $100 bail.…— a 26-year-old black man who had no known health problems died…suddenly….

…New Hampshire's practice of putting in jail people who cannot make bail, often on misdemeanor charges….[is part of] the money-based bail system in the United States [which] routinely means that poor defendants are punished before they get their day in court, often keeping them incarcerated longer than if they had been convicted right away.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

CELEBRATE WORKERS' POWER ON MAY DAY

Why does Progressive Labor Party fight for communism? Because capitalism doesn't work for our class. It didn't work when Kimani Gray, Shantel Davis, and Ramarley Graham were murdered by these kkkops. It didn't work when U.S. drones killed a thousand of civilians in Pakistan. It didn't work when Obama deported 1.6 million immigrant workers. It didn't work when the first bus strike in NYC since 1979 suppressed by billionaire Mayor Bloomberg. It didn't work when schools and hospitals all over the country were shut down. And it didn't work when the South African government massacred striking miners last summer.

Truth is, capitalism has never worked for the working class. It is a system built on robbing, lynching, and terrorizing us. It breeds divisive racist and sexist ideologies that prevent us from seeing each other as part of one struggle, one class, one fight. The bosses engage in cutthroat competition on a world scale, leading to wars — wars paid in workers' blood.

If blood must be shed, let it be the bosses'. Workers, students, and soldiers — turn the guns around.

We have a vision for communism, a system where there is no exploitation, no wage, no racism, no sexism, and no borders. What we would have is a society run by workers, where each person works according to their commitment, and each receives according to their need. Communism is an egalitarian society.

How can such a world be possible? We need revolution! It can only be won by organizing to overthrow these bosses and their state under the revolutionary force of a mass party of millions, PLP. Together, we can conquer the world. Every action we take counts in building for revolution.

So, join PLP in Mexico, Haiti, Pakistan, Palestine-Israel, El Salvador, Colombia, India, U.S., and more! Let us show our force, our power, this May Day on April 30. From the beginning, May Day stood for working class internationalism. Workers have been against exploitation since capitalism's birth. Let us honor our class, from our first May Day victory in Chicago of 1887 to the first successful workers' state in Soviet Russia, to the great Proletarian Revolution in China, to each and every battle we are in. Workers, we have a world to win. Together, we can create a system that works, rule and run society for us people who work. Join us this May Day!✪

PHILIPPINES MAY DAY

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